



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Governor Charles D. Baker
Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito
EEA Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
DCR Commissioner John P. Murray

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DCR ANNOUNCES *WAR AND PEACE* PROGRAM FOR PRESERVATION MONTH 2015

BOSTON – Tuesday, April 28, 2015 – To celebrate the month of May as Preservation Month, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will showcase the cultural sites in the Commonwealth's parks, many reflecting this year's theme of ***War and Peace***.

During the month-long event, visitors can take part in dozens of programs in over 30 DCR facilities across the state. Guests can tour Fort Warren on Boston Harbor's George's Island where Confederate soldiers were imprisoned during the Civil War; walk the famous route of the Knox Trail in Otis; or take a position at the WWII Tower at Halibut Point State Park in Rockport. Special ***Doors Open*** events will give the public access to properties including homes, lodges and mansions rehabilitated under DCR's Historic Curatorship Program.

"The Department of Conservation and Recreation is committed to the preservation of the buildings, sites and landscapes that offer insight into our historic past," stated DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. "Preservation Month is a great time for residents and guests to view our parks in a new way and to experience our shared heritage."

This year marks the sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War, and Preservation Month 2015 pays tribute to the Commonwealth's sons and daughters who have served our country by kicking off a major investment in the preservation of the Greylock War Memorial Tower. The Commonwealth built the Tower in 1932 to commemorate the service and sacrifices of her citizens. A sturdy granite memorial situated on the summit of the state's highest peak, the Tower is crowned with a memorial beacon, shining in memory of those who have served in all wars. The \$1.9 million rehabilitation of the Tower will include improved accessibility, updated heating and ventilation systems, new LED lights for the beacon, and interpretive panels. Work is expected to begin in July 2015 and be complete in fall 2016.

DCR's preservation mission extends across the state. In Boston, DCR will restore the sallyport doors of Fort Independence at Castle Island, and interpretive improvements at Camp Meigs in Hyde Park will help tell the story of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and their historic role in the Civil War. At Halibut Point State Park in Rockport, new interpretation at the Visitor Center will bring to life the quarry history and the site's role in World War II.

DCR is steward to the rich legacy of Massachusetts' history visible in the parks across our state. From Native American sites to designed gardens, DCR's historic properties exhibit centuries of human ingenuity in adapting the land for everyday life. Preservation Month is a time to acknowledge our history and celebrate DCR's work to preserve the past.

Each year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation promotes May as Preservation Month to raise awareness about the enormous impact historic preservation has in protecting and enhancing our neighborhoods and communities.

For more information on DCR's Preservation Month program, including locations and programs, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/presmo2015. Share your Preservation Month experiences using the hashtag #DCRpresmo.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. The agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us, or follow us on Twitter @massDCR.

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